



# SUMMARY OF 2021 SPOTTED SEATROUT SURVEYS

Jack Isaacs | LWFC Meeting | November 4, 2021

# *Email and Web Based Survey*

- Sent 10,000 random e-mails to licensed residents with saltwater privileges.
- Email survey sent August 18
  - Two Reminders
  - Closed September 23
  - 990 Responses (10.4% of adjusted sample)
- Web survey open to anyone August 24
  - Results through September 23 Analyzed Here
  - 4,228 Responses



**Respondents to Both Surveys**  
*Especially Web Survey Respondents*

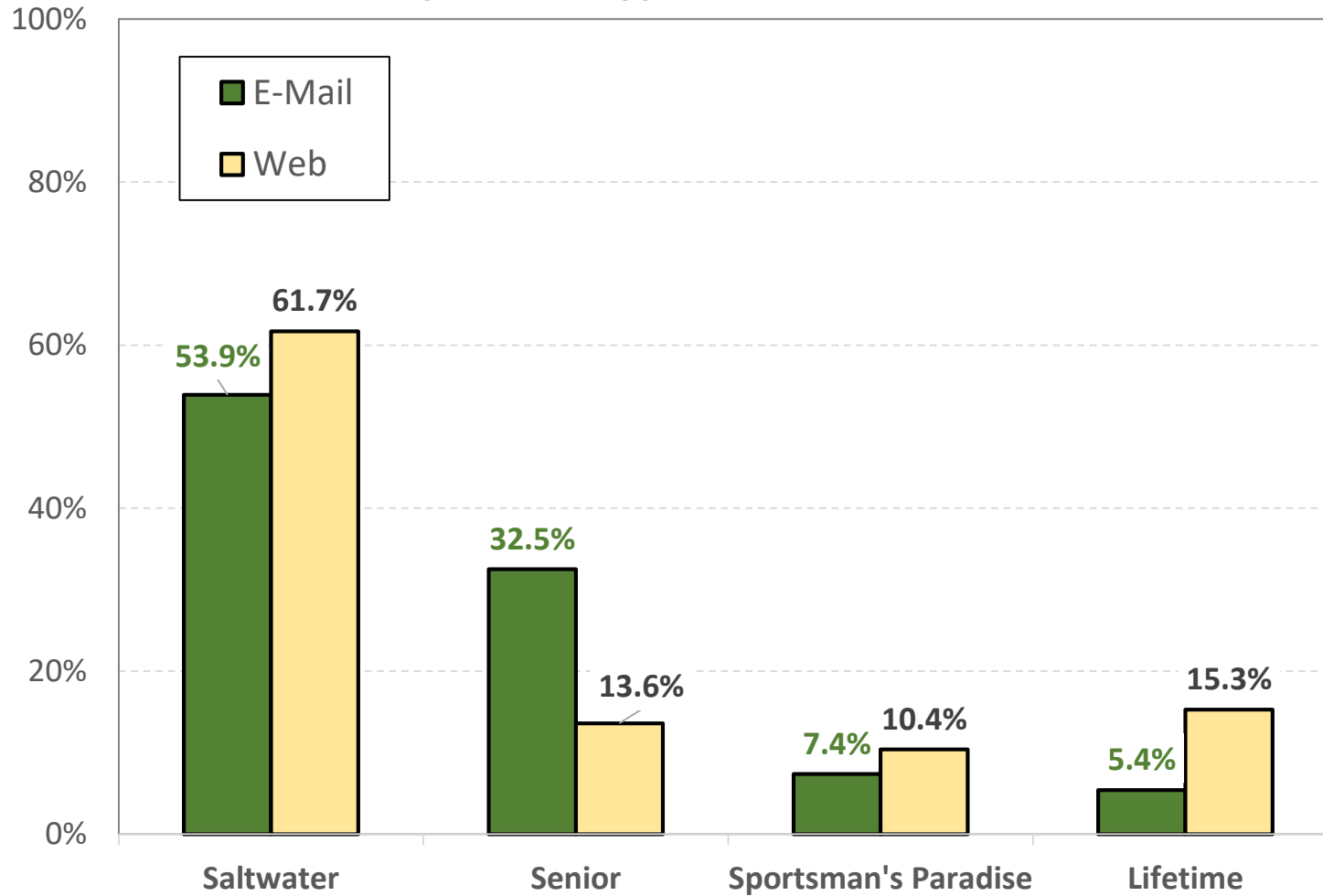
Seem to Be

**More Avid**

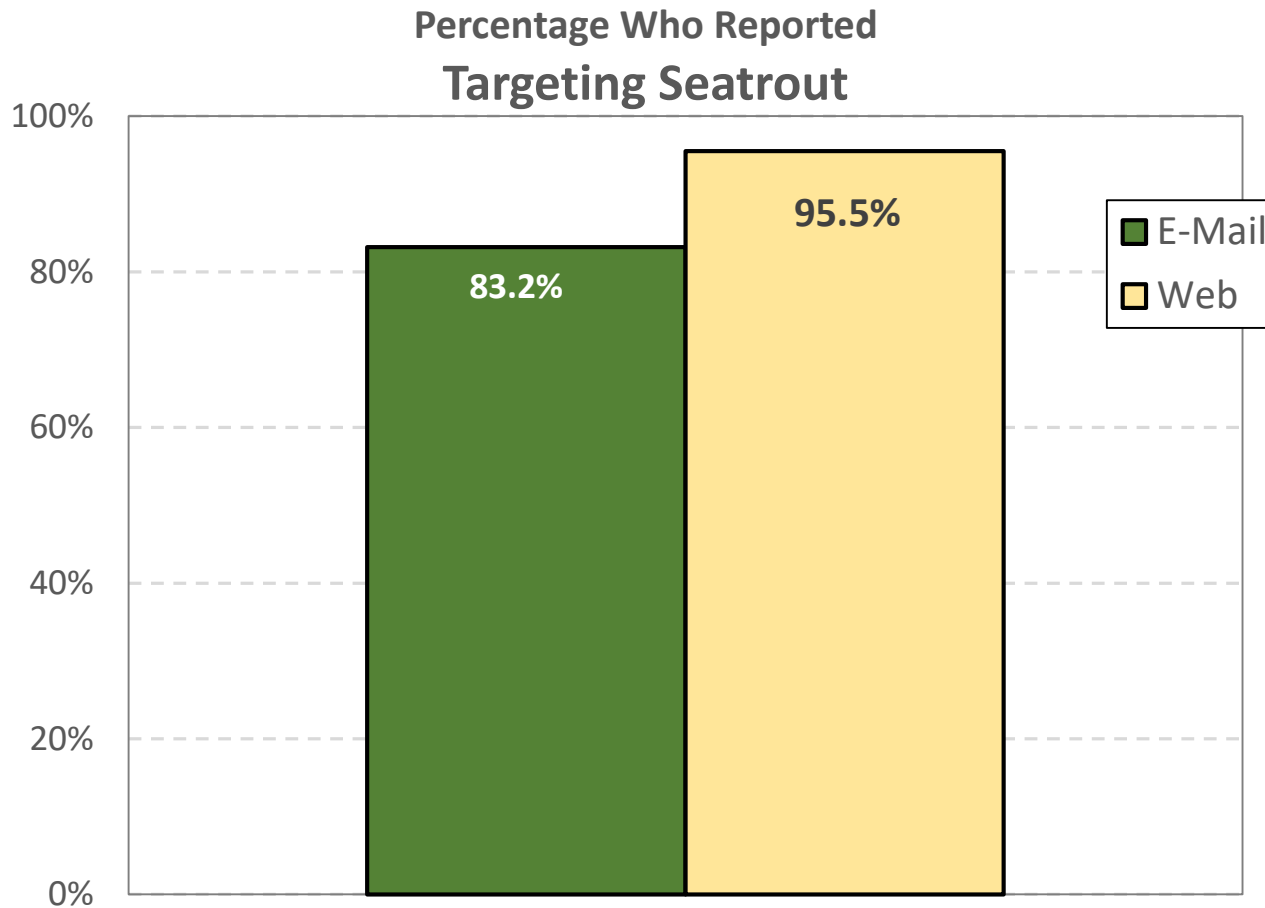
**than Most Louisiana Resident Anglers**



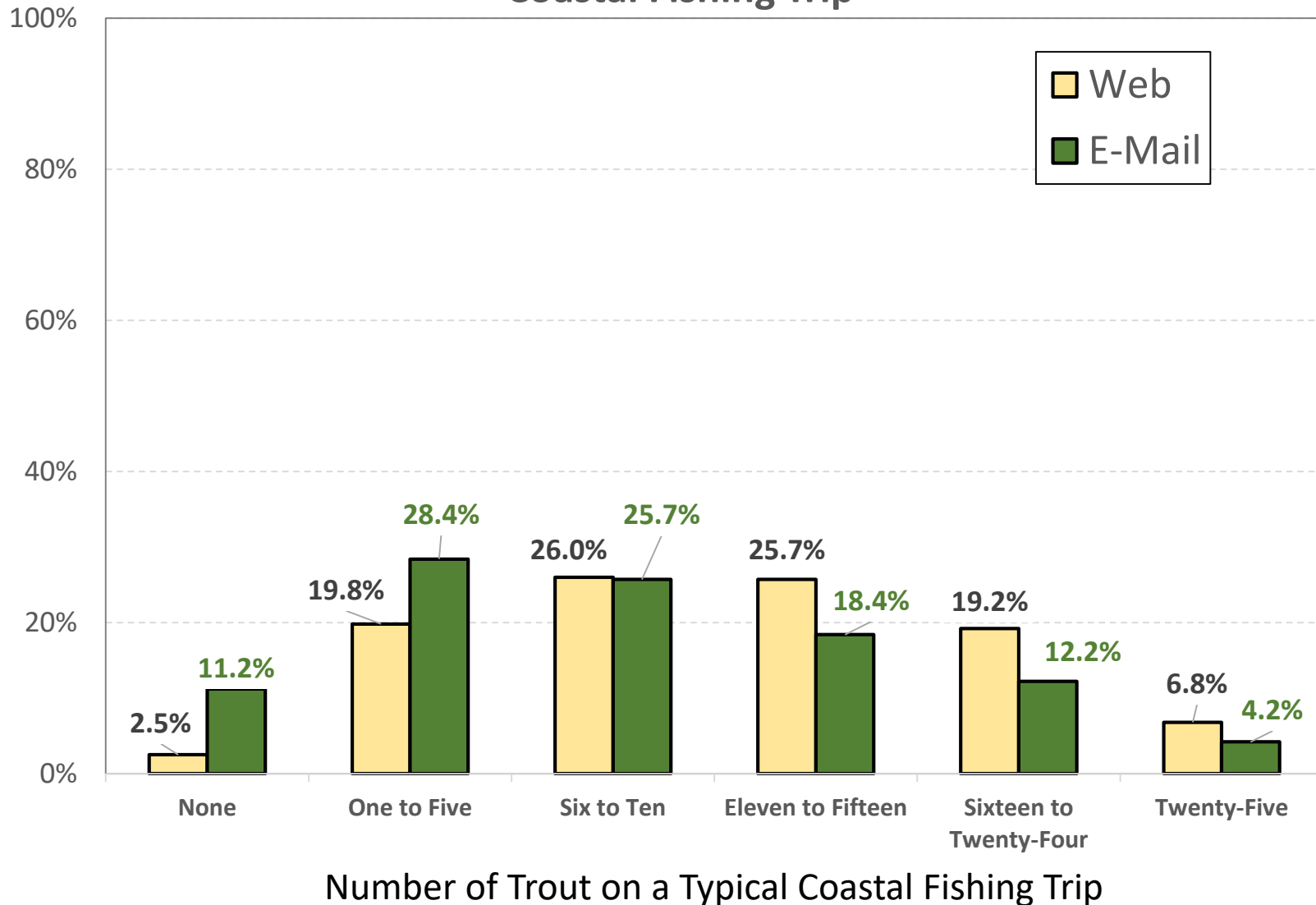
## Percentage Who Held the Specified Types of Licenses:



Reported Number of Coastal Fishing Trips		
	E-Mail	Web
Average	15	25.5
Median	10	15



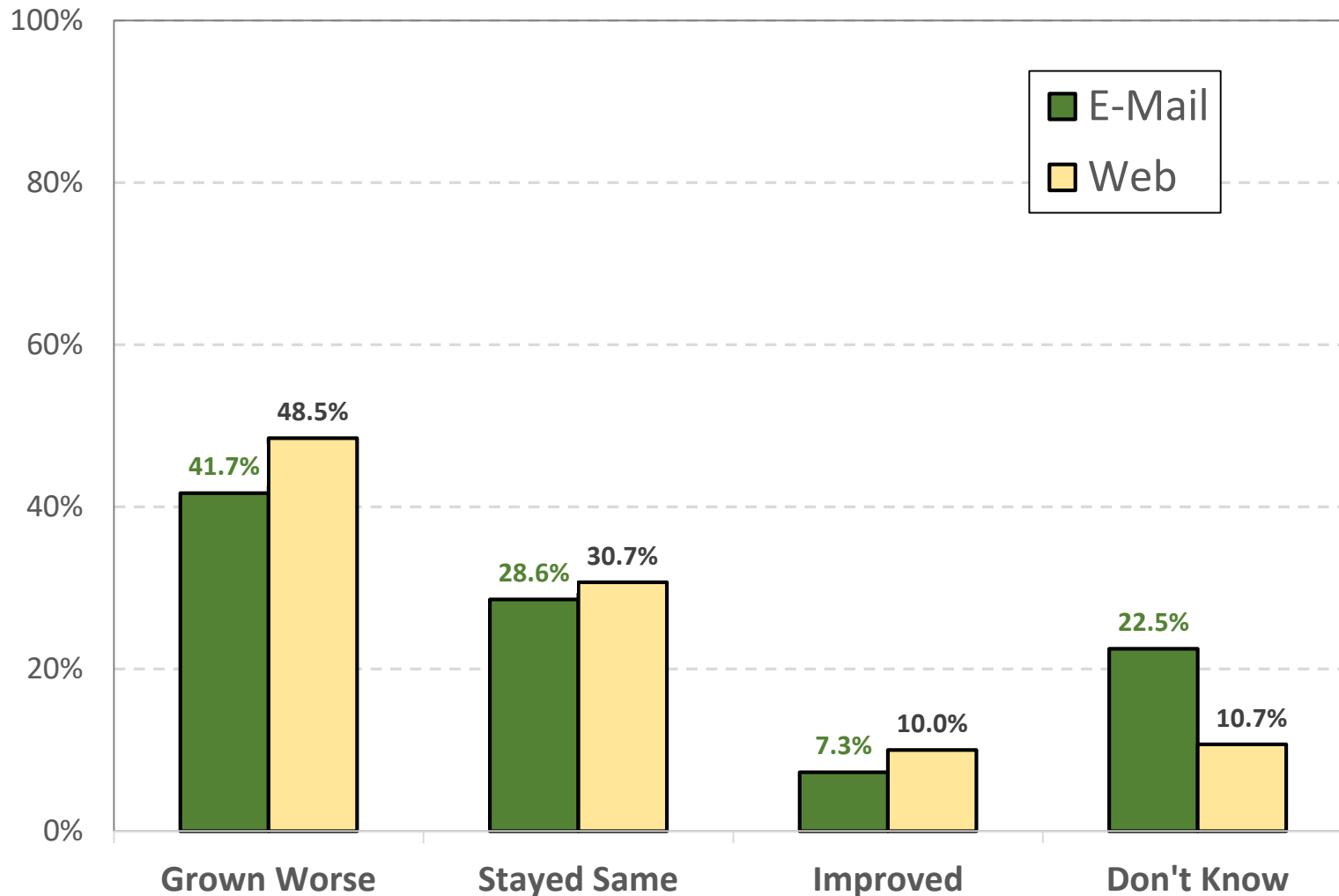
# Percentage Who Reported Catching the Specified Number of Seatrout on a Typical Coastal Fishing Trip



# Respondents' Views of Change in Spotted Seatrout Stocks

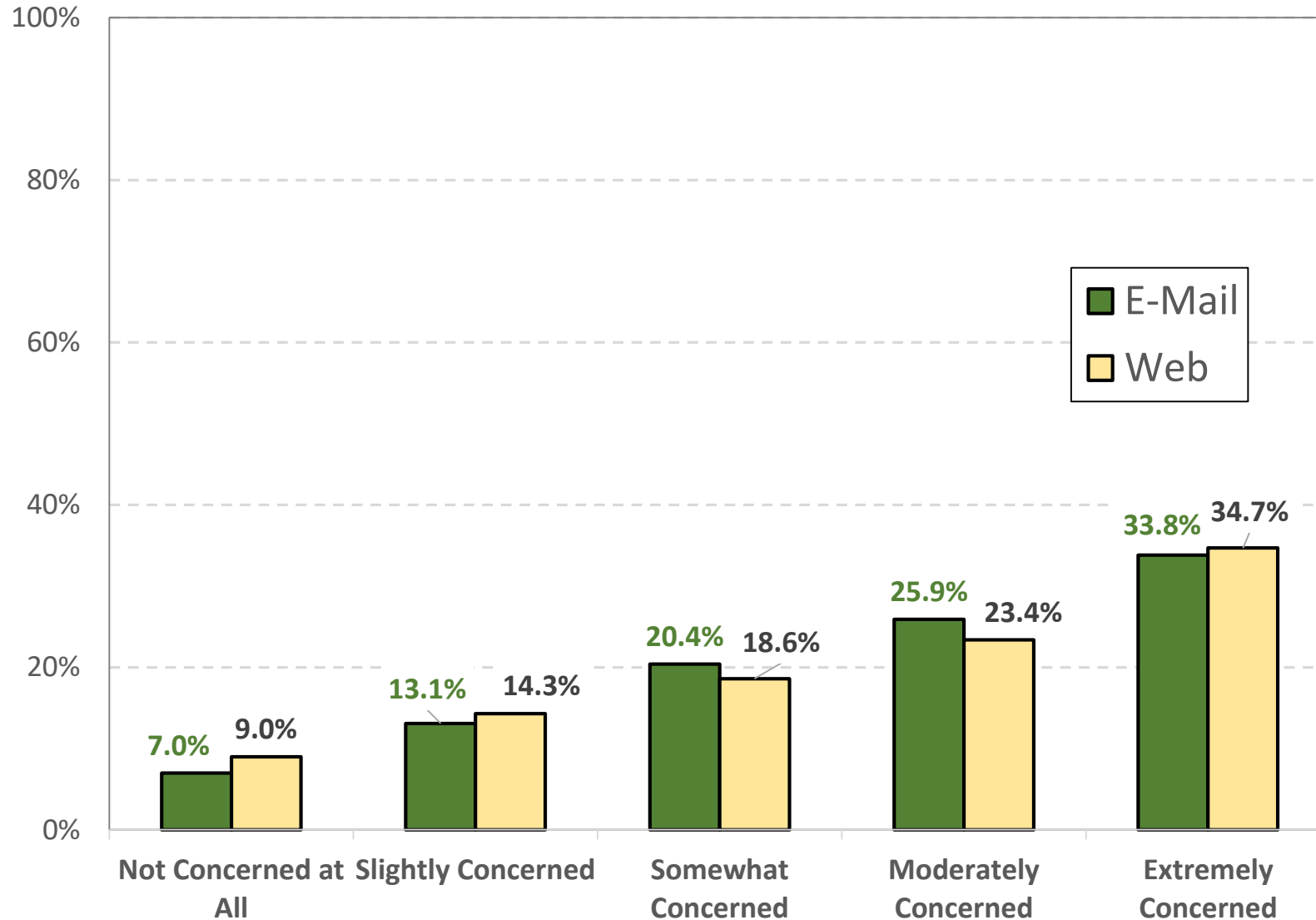


## Percentage Who Offered the Following Description of the Change in Spotted Seatrout Fishing in Area They Fished the Most

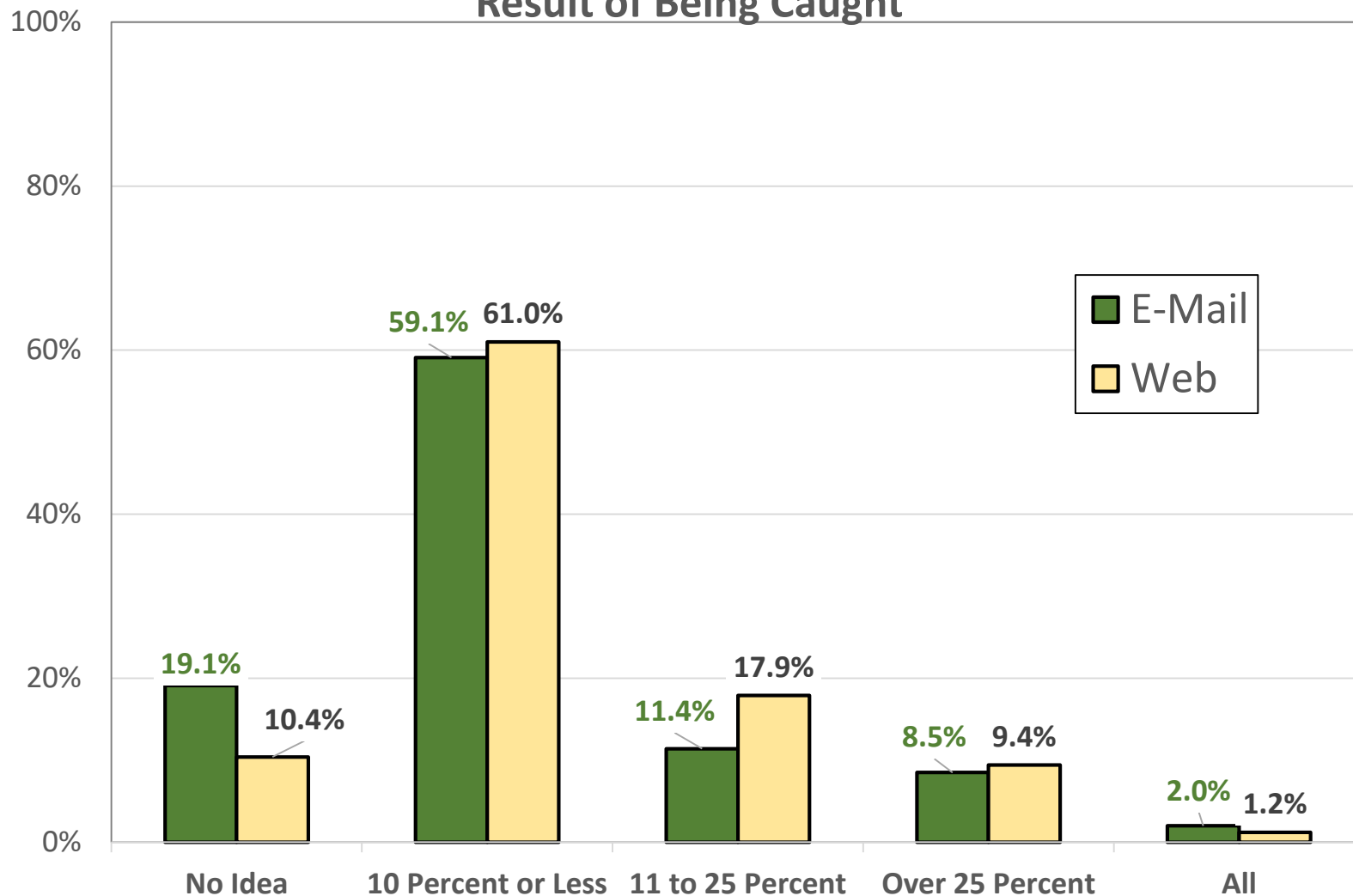




## Percentage Expressing the Specified Level of Concern for Spotted Seatrout



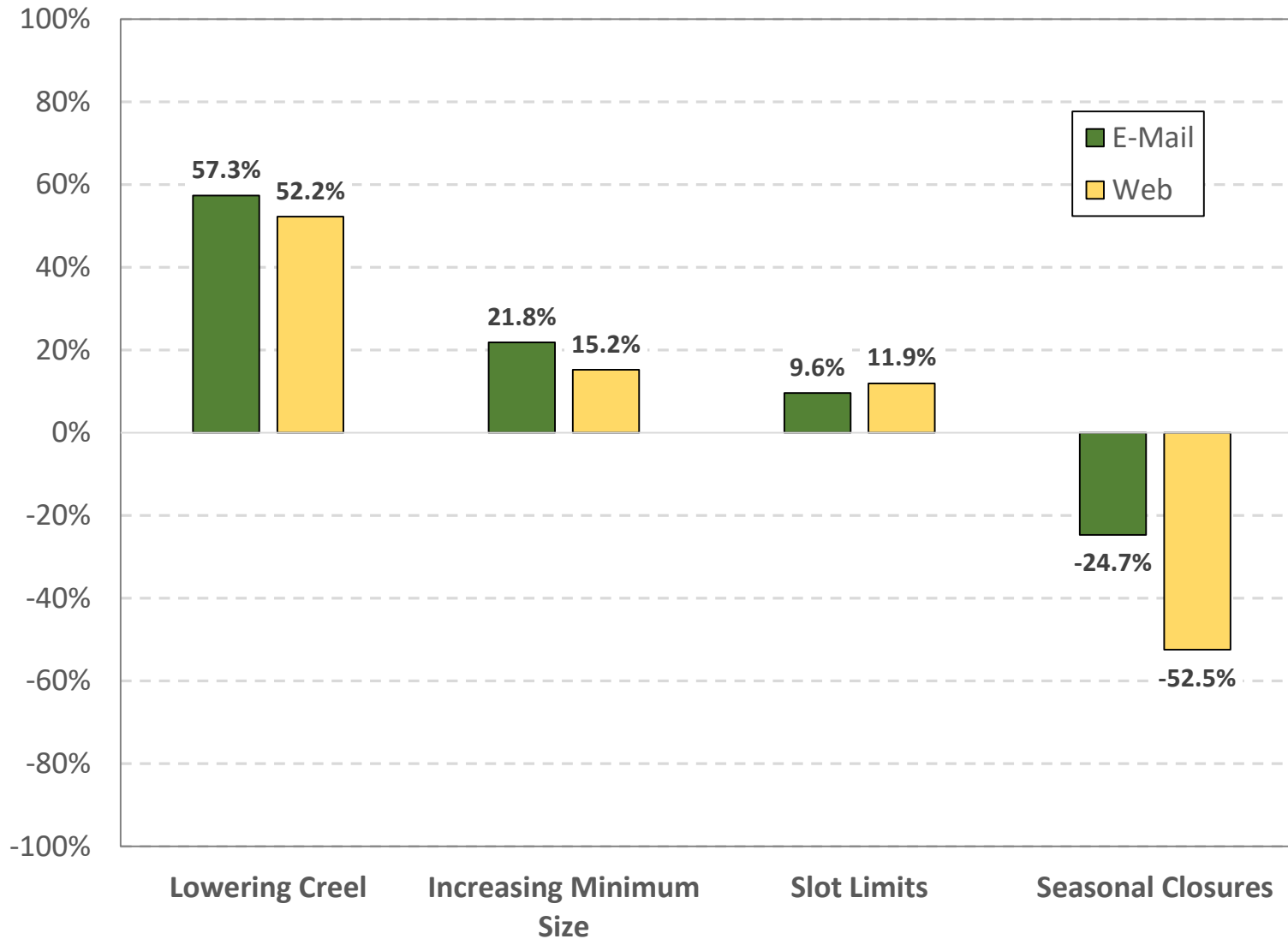
# Percentage Who Believed That the Specified Percentage of Released Seatrout Died as a Result of Being Caught



# Questions about General Management Preferences

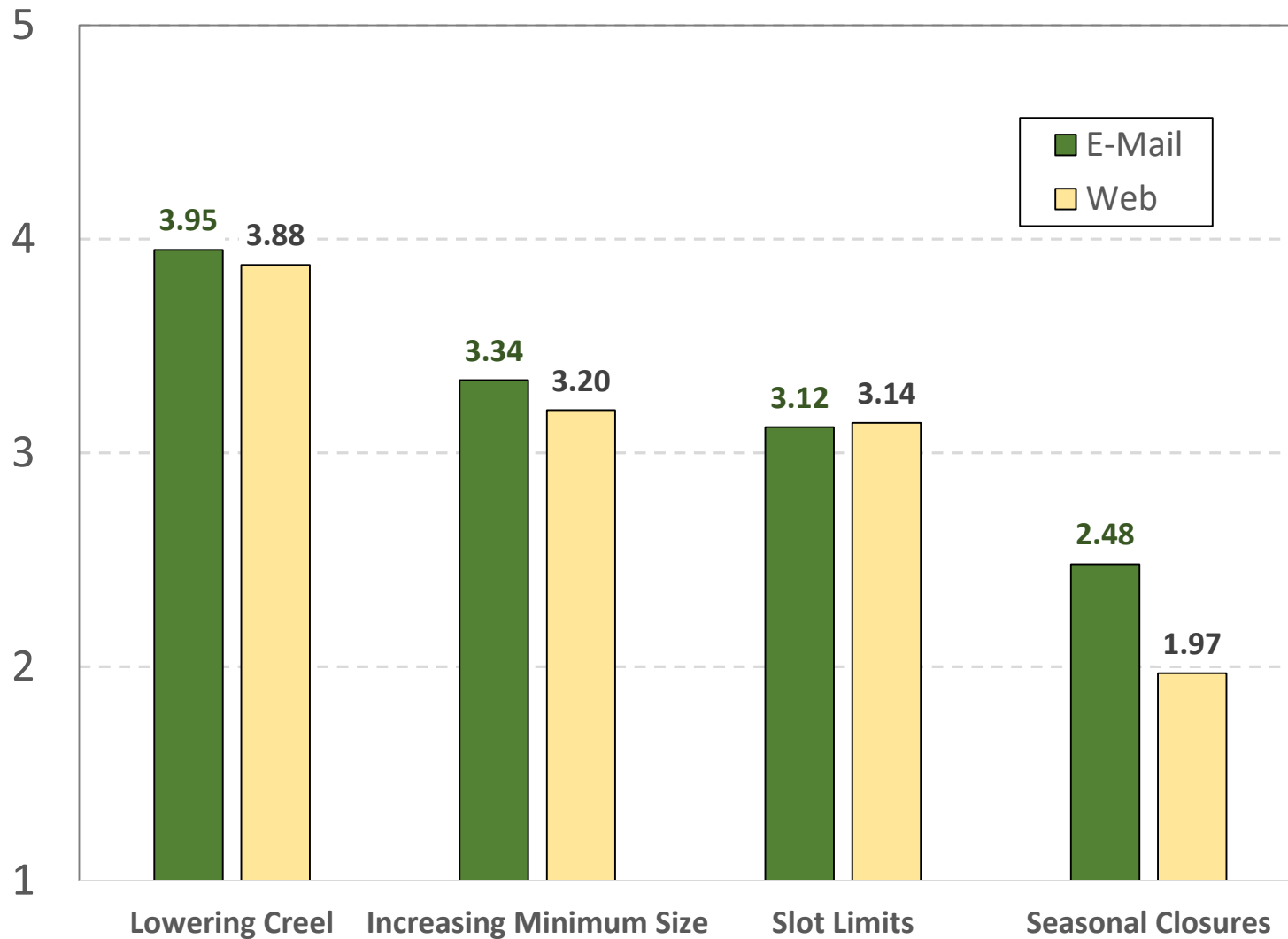


# Net Preferences for General Management Options



Net Preference = (Percent Strongly or Slightly Support) – (Percent Strongly or Slightly Oppose)

# *Weighted Score for General Management Options*



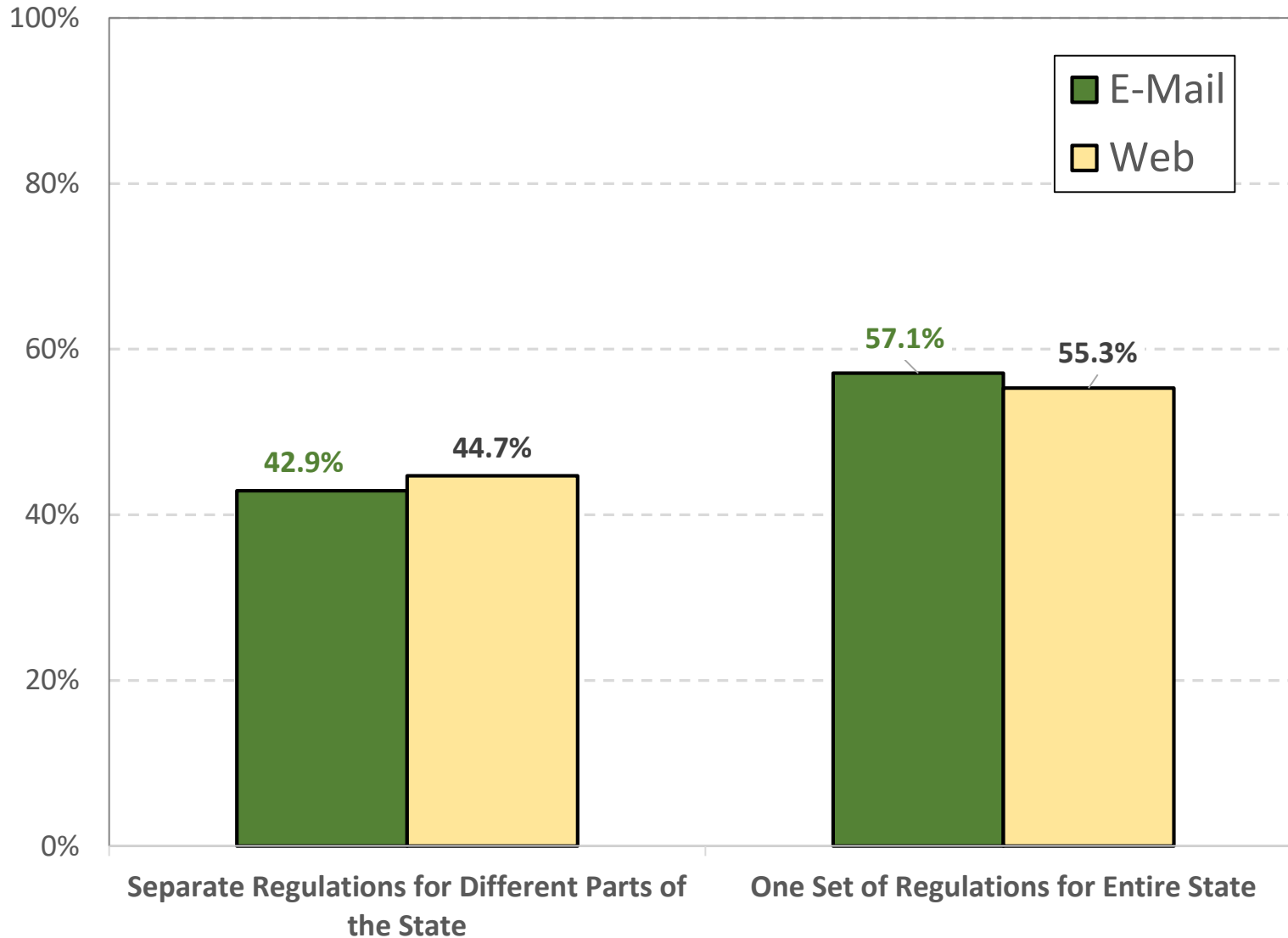
Weighted Score= Average Score on a Scale from One to Five



**Respondents' Preferences for**  
**Consistent Statewide**  
**or**  
**Variable Regional**  
**Regulations for Spotted Seatrout**



## Percentage Preferring Consistent Statewide or Variable Regional Seatrout Regulations



# Questions about Specific Management Scenarios

**Respondents Rated on a 5-Point Scale**

(From “Strongly Oppose” to “Strongly Support”)

**Current Seatrout Regulations**

+

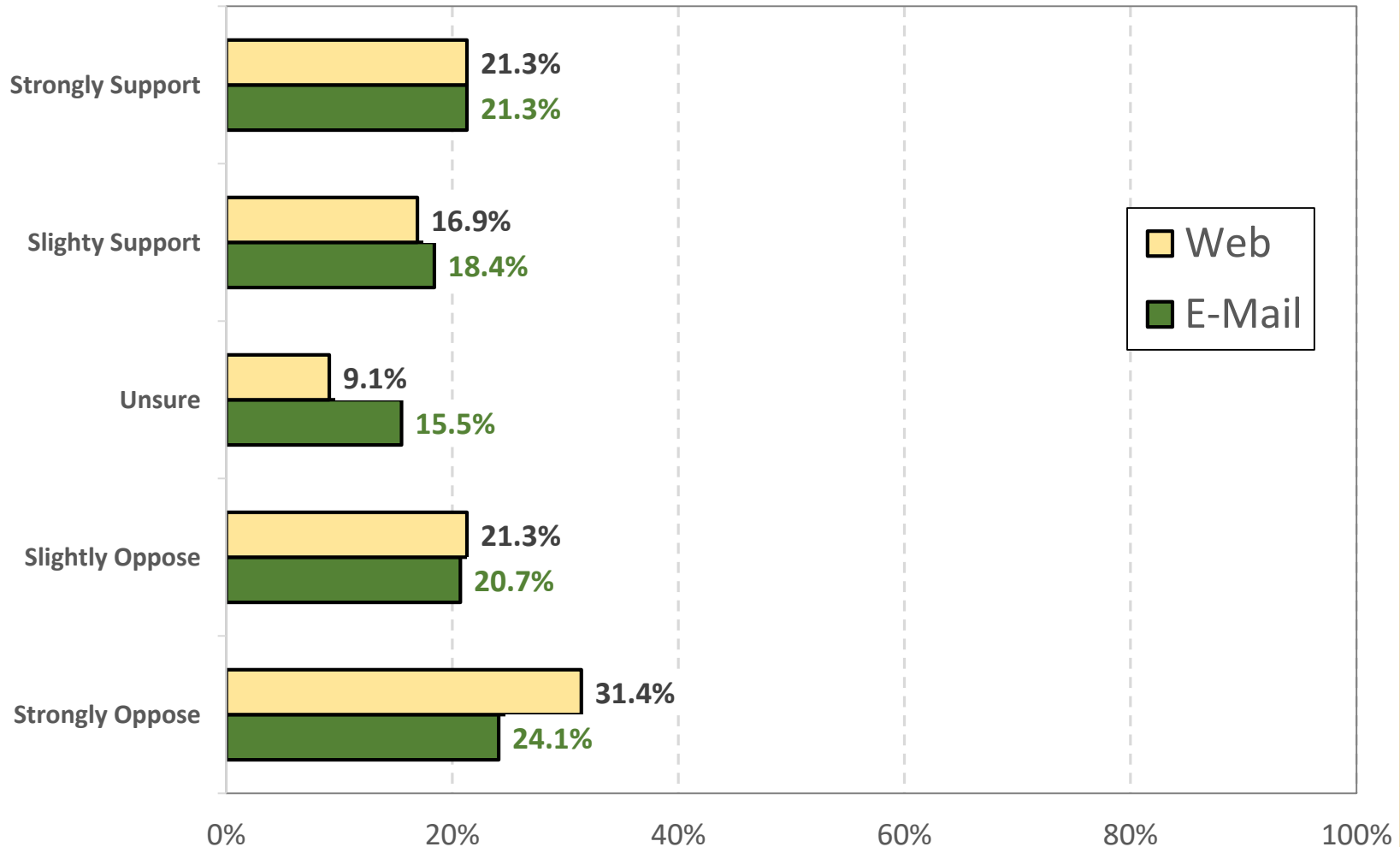
**Five Alternatives**

Intended to Reduce Landings by 20% and Rebuild  
the Fishery within Five Years



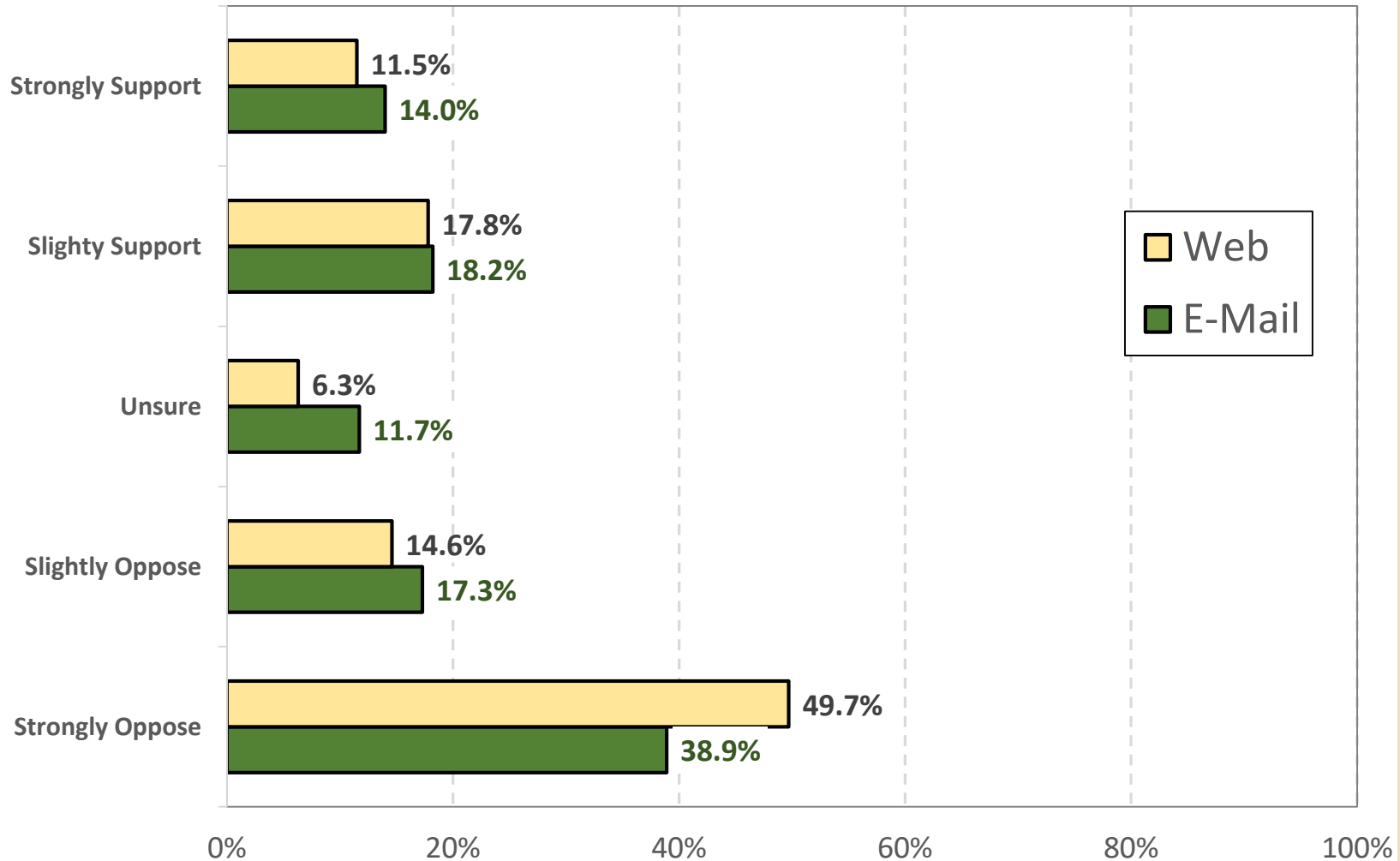
# Current Seatrout Regulations

Minimum Size Limit: 12"  
Creel Limit: 25 Fish



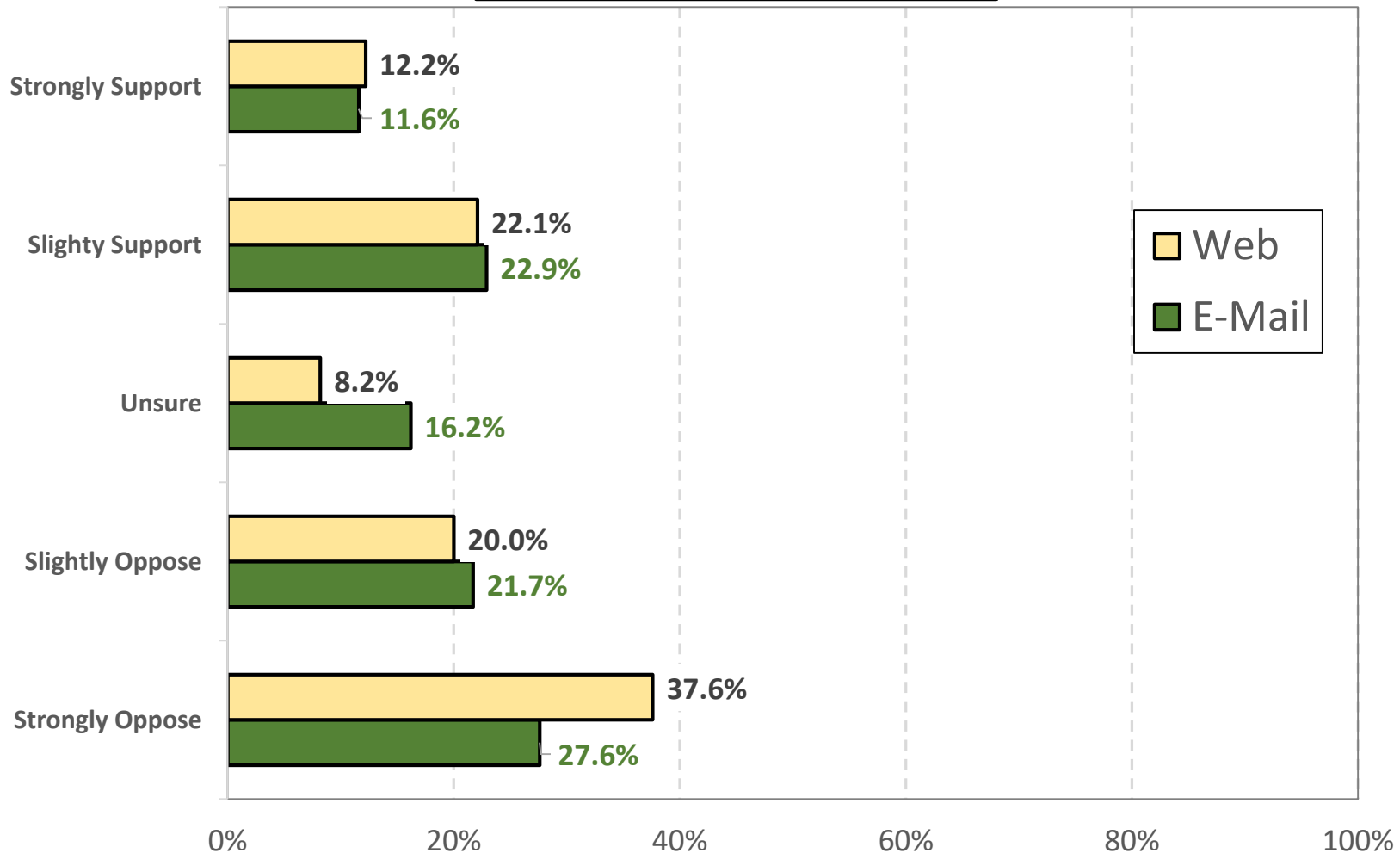
# Creel Change Only Option

Minimum Size Limit: 12"  
Creel Limit: 9 Fish



# Size Change Only Option

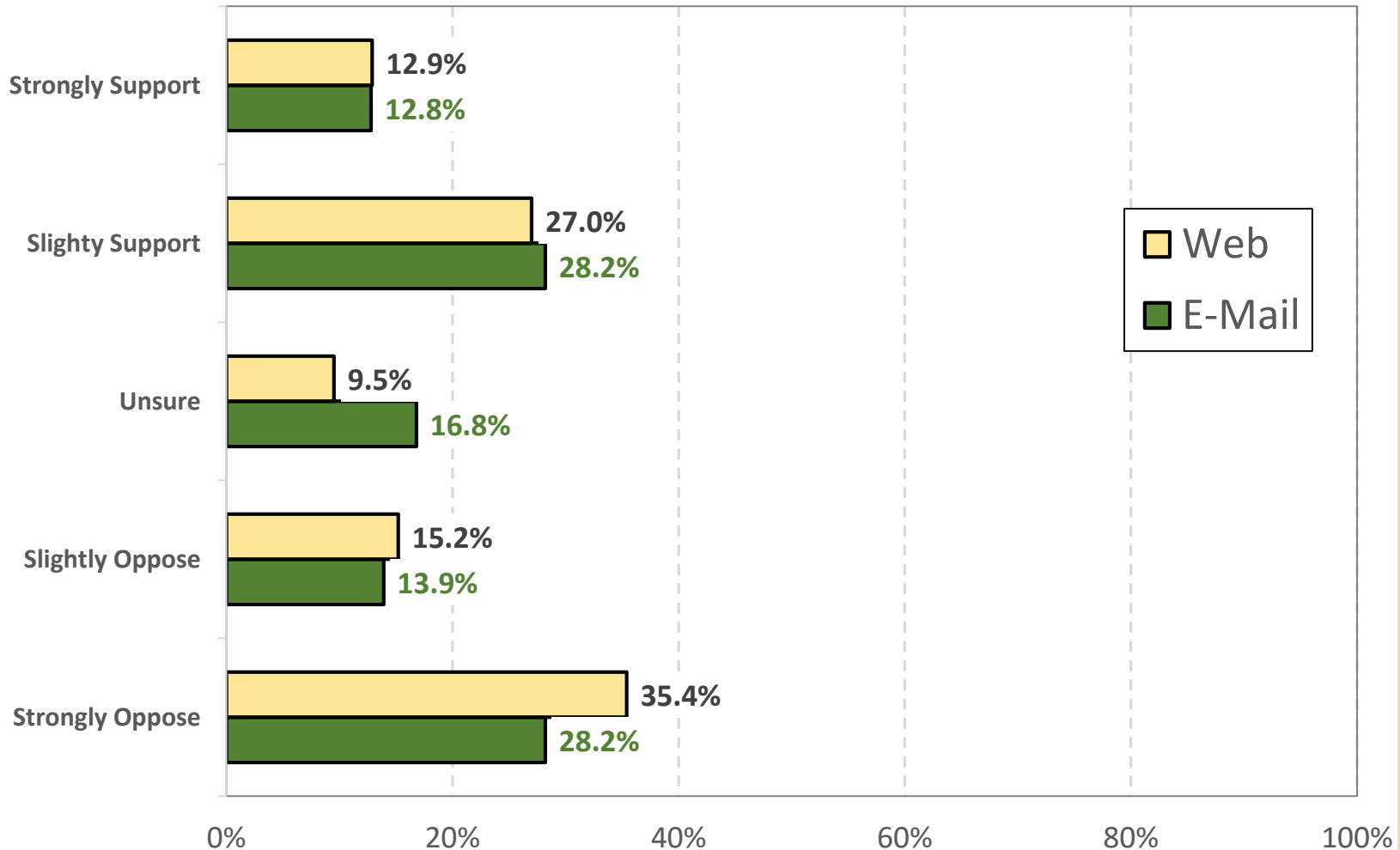
Minimum Size Limit: 14"  
Creel Limit: 25 Fish



# Creel & Size Change I Option

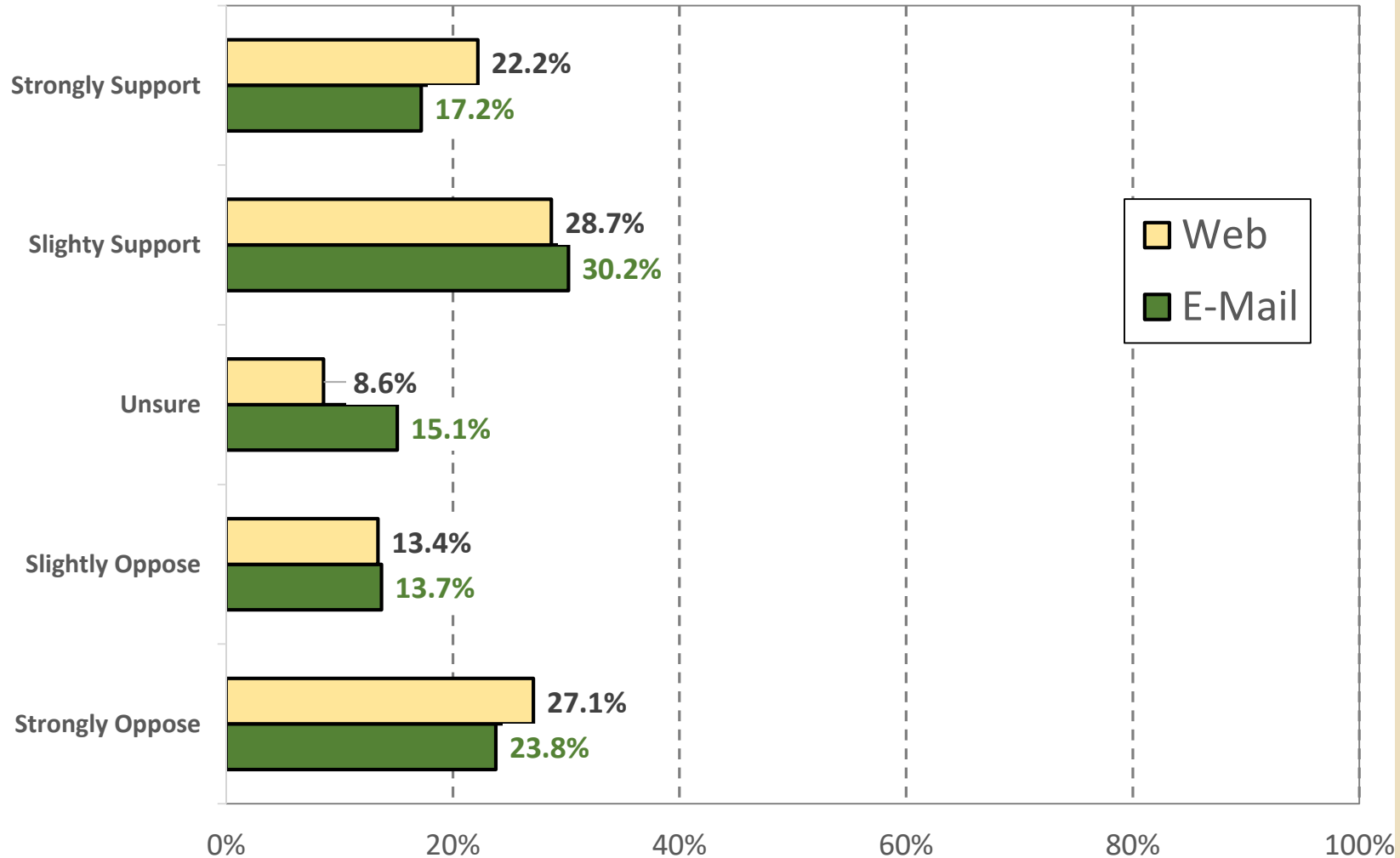
Minimum Size Limit: 13"

Creel Limit: 11 Fish

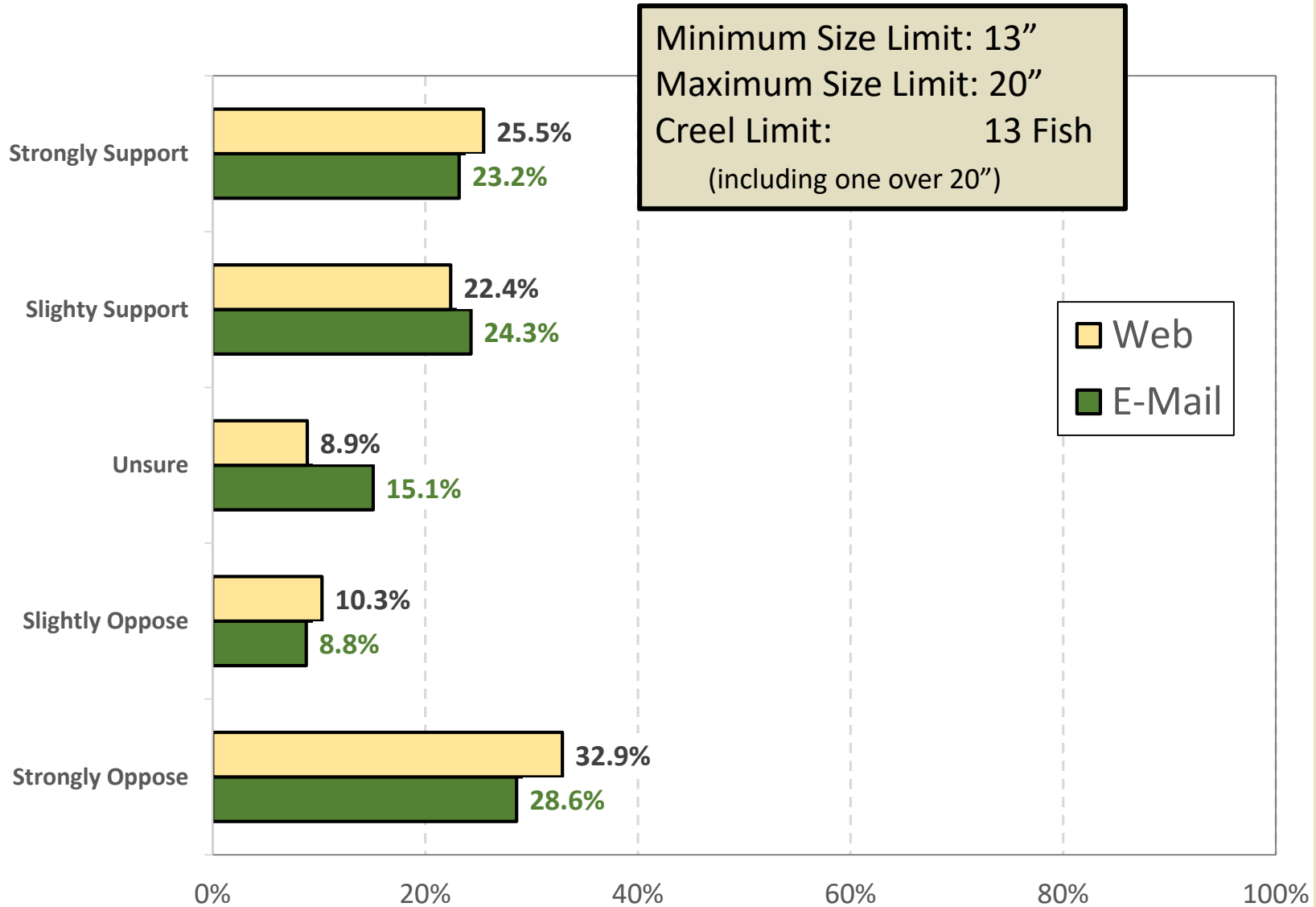


# Creel and Size Change II Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13.5"  
Creel Limit: 15 Fish

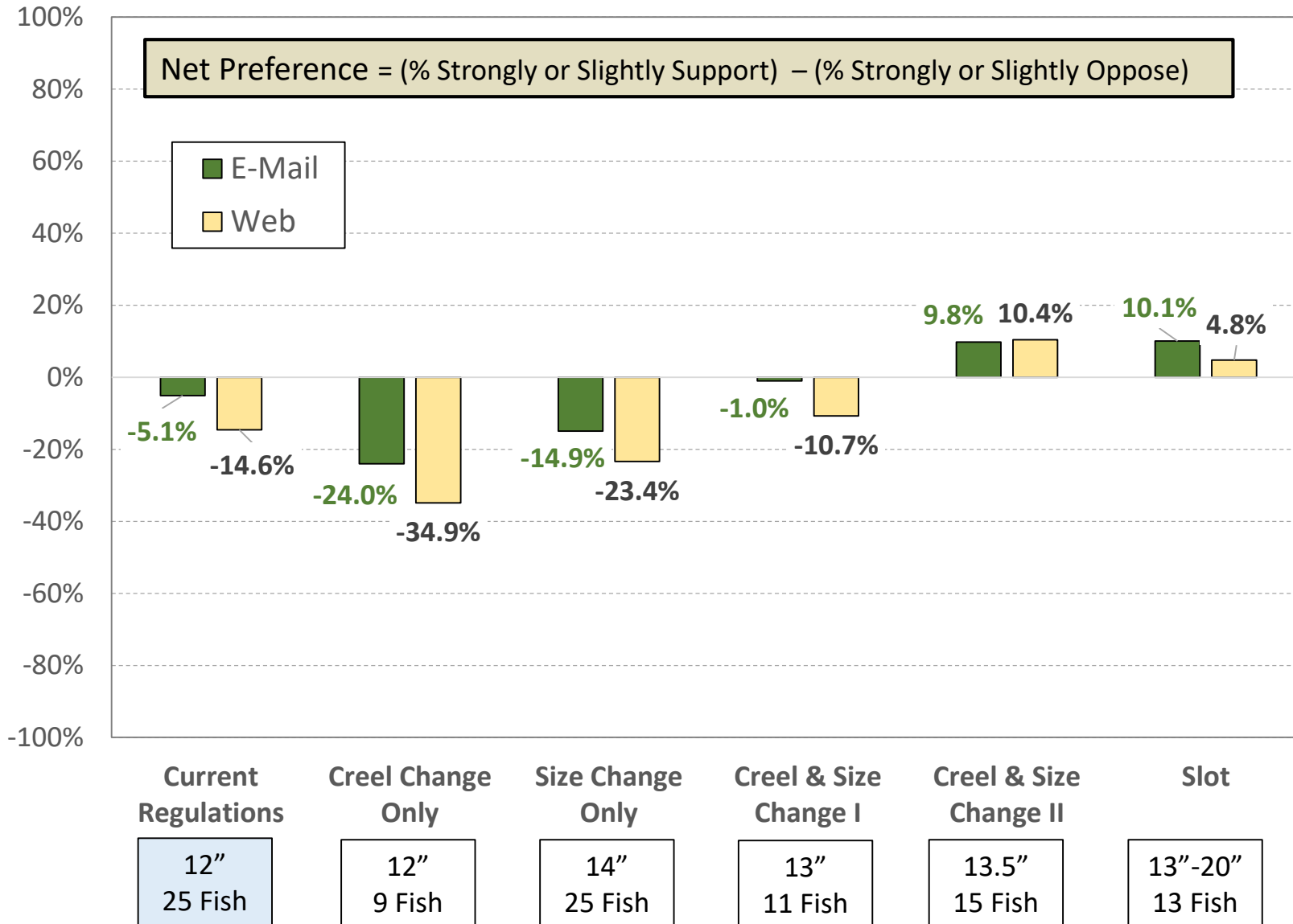


## Slot Option

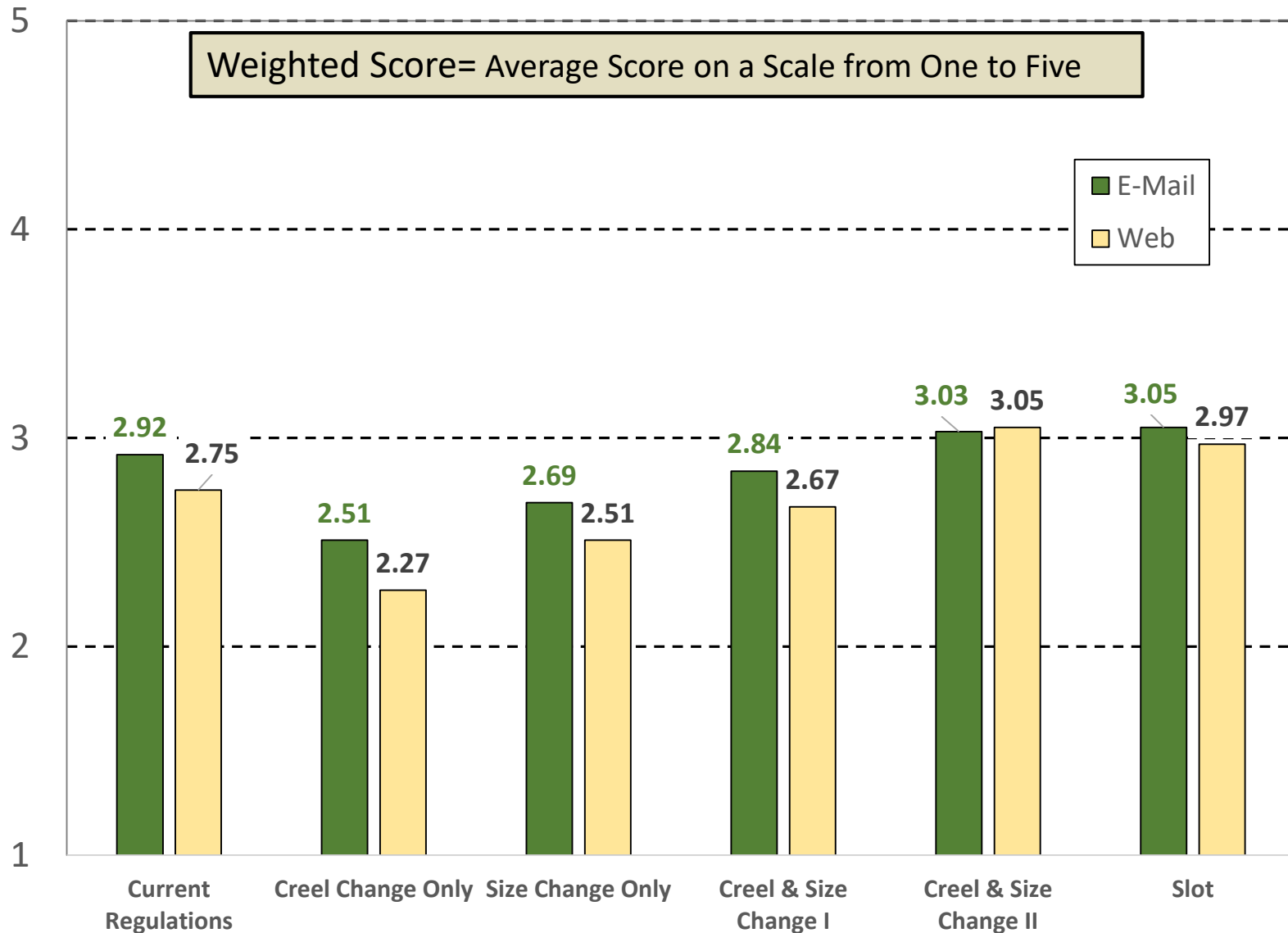


# SUMMARY:

## Net Preferences for Specific Management Options



# Weighted Score for Specific Management Options





# SUMMARY

Respondents to Both Surveys Gave *Relatively High Ratings*  
to Two Options with a 20% Harvest Reduction & Five-Year Rebuilding Goal with  
**Mid-Range Decreases in Creels**  
AND  
**Increases in Minimum Size Limits**

- 15 Fish Creel - 13½" Minimum
- 13 Fish Creel – 13-20" Slot (with 1 over 20")

*at the Time of the Survey*

- Both Options Were More Highly Rated than Current Regulations
- Large Percentages of Respondents Remained UNSURE about Both
  - Especially in the E-Mail Survey



# ***Thank You !***

- Dr. Rex Caffey – LSU Ag Center and Sea Grant Program
- Jason Adriance – LDWF
- Dr. Maryam Tabarestani – LDWF
- Chris Schieble-LDWF
- Harry Blanchet – LDWF
- Christian Winslow – LDWF
- Rebecca Hildebrandt - LDWF
- Dr. Steve Midway – LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences
- David Smith – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Jason Froeba – LDWF
- Patrick Banks - LDWF



# Questions

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